B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). A system for providing a game that simulates the trading of commodities comprising:

a computer accessible by a plurality of players over a computer network;

a database accessible by said computer containing a plurality of player files associated with a plurality of players of the system wherein each of said plurality of player files contains a player portfolio associated with a specific player including commodities and units thereof and a money value;

said plurality of player files further containing a player score determined by said computer based on said player portfolio;

a database accessible by said computer containing a plurality of indications submitted by players of the system to said computer over said computer network, wherein each of said plurality of indications relates to a bid or offer for a specified number of units of a specified commodity at a specified unit price;

an indication selected by a player from said plurality of indications, said indication submitted by the player to said computer over said computer network; [and,]

software executing on said computer for receiving said selected indication from the player, retrieving a player portfolio from said player database corresponding to the player, updating said listing of commodities and units thereof in said retrieved player portfolio to reflect said selected indication, updating said money value in said retrieved player portfolio to reflect said selected indication, and removing the selected indication from said indication database; and

software executing on said computer for retrieving game-ending criteria, ceasing further game play when said game-ending criteria are met, retrieving scoring criteria, retrieving said player portfolio, determining a player score based on said player portfolio, and determining a winner based on said player scores.

2 (Currently Amended). The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a database containing game rules for controlling the game flow and processing of indications, said game rules including said scoring criteria and said game-ending criteria[;

software executing on said computer for retrieving said scoring criteria from said game rules database, retrieving said player portfolio, determining a player score based on said player portfolio, storing said determined player score in said player database, retrieving said game-ending criteria from said game rules database, ceasing further game play when said game-ending criteria are met, retrieving player scores from each of said plurality of player files in said player database, and determining a winner based on said retrieved player scores].

3 (Original). The system of claim 2 further comprising software executing on said computer for retrieving the commodities and units thereof from the player file, determining a current value of the commodities based on a unit price at which each of the commodities was last processed, and determining said player score by adding said determined value to the money value in the player portfolio the sum.

4 (Original). The system of claim 2 wherein said game-ending criteria are met upon the expiration of a preset time period.

5 (Original). The system of claim 2 wherein said game-ending criteria are met upon one of said plurality of players attaining a predetermined player score.

6 (Original). The system of claim 2 wherein each of said players begins the game with an empty player portfolio and said game rules include predetermined limitations on a player's open position in any given commodity.

7 (Original). The system of claim 6 wherein said predetermined limitations on a player's open position in any given commodity are effective upon satisfaction of said game-ending criteria.

8 (Original). The system of claim 2 wherein each of said players begins the game with predetermined commodities and units thereof available for placing and accepting indications and a predetermined money value player portfolio available for placing and accepting indications.

9 (Original). The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a completed bid submission form containing a proposed bid to buy submitted by the player to said computer over said computer network; and,

software executing on said computer for transmitting an indication submission form to the player over said computer network, receiving said completed indication submission form submitted by the player, querying said retrieved player portfolio to verify sufficient money value to back said proposed bid, and creating a new indication based on said completed indication submission form, and storing said new indication in said indication database.

10 (Original). The system of claim 1 further comprising;

a completed offer submission form containing a proposed offer to sell submitted by the player to said computer over said computer network; and,

software executing on said computer for transmitting an indication submission form to the player over said computer network, receiving said completed indication submission form submitted by the player, querying said retrieved player portfolio to verify sufficient units of a commodity specified in said proposed offer to back said proposed offer, and creating a new indication based on said completed indication submission form, and storing said new indication in said indication database.

11 (Previously Amended). The system of claim 9, further comprising software executing on said computer for retrieving said game rules from said game rules database, determining whether said new indication violates said games rules, and notifying the player of any determined violations over said computer network.

12 (Original). The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a presentation of said plurality of indications transmitted from said computer to the player over said computer network, and,

software executing on said computer for retrieving said plurality of indications from said indication database and transmitting said plurality of indications to the player over said computer network.

13 (Original). The system of claim 12 further comprising:

a formatting selection submitted to said computer by the player over said computer network; and,

software executing on said computer for transmitting a plurality of formatting options to the player over said computer network, receiving said formatting selection

submitted by the player, and formatting said presentation according to said formatting selection prior to transmitting said presentation to the player.

14 (Original). The system of claim 12 further comprising:

a sorting selection submitted to said computer by the player over said computer network; and,

software executing on said computer for transmitting a plurality of sorting options to the player over said computer network, receiving said sorting selection submitted by the player, and sorting said presentation according to said submitted sorting selection prior to transmitting said presentation to the player.

15 (Original). The system of claim 12 further comprising:

a content selection submitted to said computer by the player over said computer network; and,

software executing on said computer for transmitting a plurality of content options to the player over said computer network, receiving said content selection submitted by the player, retrieving indications from said indications database corresponding to said submitted content selection, and transmitting said retrieved indications to the player over said computer network.

16 (Previously Amended). The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a request to register submitted by the player to said computer over said computer network;

software executing on said computer for transmitting a registration form to the player over said computer network link in response to said request;

a completed registration form submitted by the player to said computer over said computer network; and,

software executing on said computer for receiving said completed registration form, creating a player file based on said completed registration form, and storing said player file in said player database.

17 (Original). The system of claim 1 wherein said computer network comprises the Internet and said system further comprising software executing on said computer for

operating and maintaining a website for facilitating communication between the computer and the player.

18 (Previously presented). The system of claim 2 wherein said game rules further comprise limits on the amount or type of units in which specific commodities may be offered.

19 (Previously presented). The system of claim 2 wherein said game rules further comprise pre-defined lot sizes for various commodities.

20 (Previously presented). The system of claim 2 wherein said game rules further comprise limits on the total open position a player may maintain at any given time overall for specific commodities.

21 (Previously presented). The system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of indications are presented to a player in a customizable format such that only pre-selected types of indications are presented to the player or are presented to the player in a pre-selected format.

22 (Previously presented). The system of claim 21 wherein pre-selected format comprises a tabular or graphical format.

23 (Previously presented). The system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of indications are presented to a player on a real-time basis such that the player may review any current bids and offers as they are made available.

24 (Currently Amended). A commodities trading simulation for use by a plurality of players comprising:

a computer connected to a network and accessible by a player;

a player file associated with the player;

said player file accessible by said computer and including units indicating commodities and a money value;

[a]player scoring [score] criteria[, determined by said computer based on said player file];

game-ending criteria;

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a list of indications presented to the player by said computer, said list of indications relating to a bid or offer;

an indication selected by the player from said list of indications and submitted by the player to said computer;

said indication including a specified number of units of a specified commodity at a specified unit price by a particular identified player;

said computer retrieving the player file and updating the units indicating commodities and a money value to reflect the selected indication, and said computer removing said indication from said list of indications;

said computer retrieving said game-ending criteria and ceasing further game play when said game-ending criteria are met; and

said computer retrieving said scoring criteria, retrieving said player portfolio, determining a player score based on said player portfolio, and determining a winner based on said player scores.

26 (Previously presented). The commodities trading simulation of claim 1 comprising game rules, said game rules selected from the group consisting of: a limitation on the amount or type of units in which specific commodities may be offered; a pre-defined lot size for a commodity; a limit on the total open position a player may maintain at any given time; a limit on the total open position a player may maintain for a commodity; and combinations thereof.